

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. No claims are amended. Claims 1-6 are currently pending.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,495,239 (“Ouellette”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,799,059 (“Grindahl”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and do not concede any characterizations of the cited references set forth in the Action.

Claim 1 sets forth, “[a] system for bi-directional communication within a power distribution system . . . the system comprising: a substation transceiver electrically coupled to a power distribution line within the power distribution system; a substation circuit . . . programmed to: . . . to control the endpoint to transmit a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network.” Claim 1 also sets forth, “the substation circuit programmed to: map the unique I.D. for the endpoint to a base frequency within a bandwidth and to control the endpoint to transmit a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network, the find endpoint data packet including the unique I.D. and the base frequency.”

In sharp contrast to the claimed invention, the cited references fail to teach several elements from claim 1. First, Ouellette and Grindahl fail to teach transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network. As illustrated in FIG. 1, Ouellette teaches a communications system that includes at least one mobile node 22 utilized to communicate with electrical metering devices 16 via radio frequency transmissions. See col. 6, lines 10-13 and 37-

41. In Ouellette, mobile node 22 may be moved about a field or relocated within an electrical power distribution system 10. See col. 6, lines 43-46. Mobile node 22 may be relocated by a van, as in FIG. 1, or by other means such as a technician in the field. See col. 6, lines 47-52. Consequently, Ouellette discloses a system in which a mobile node is transported to different locations to communicate with electrical metering devices. As a result, Ouellette fails to disclose “a substation circuit [coupled to a power distribution line] . . . to transmit a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network.” Rather, Ouellette discloses transmitting via an RF signal and not via power distribution lines.

Grindahl fails to overcome Ouellette’s deficiency and also fails to teach transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network. For example, Grindahl teaches an instrument monitoring system 10, including an interrogate/receiver 18, which is, preferably, carried by a mobile vehicle 28 such as a van. See col. 5, lines 3-8 and FIG. 1. In Grindahl, a transmitter activator 20 transmits RF activation signals to transponders 14A-14C via an antenna 30, while RF transponder signals from transponders 14A-14C are received by a receiver 22 through an antenna 32. See col. 5 lines 9-13. Consequently, just as Ouellette, Grindahl discloses a system in which an interrogate/receiver (mobile node) is transported to different locations to communicate with transponders (electrical metering devices). As a result, Grindahl fails to disclose “a substation circuit [coupled to a power distribution line] . . . to transmit a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network.” Rather, Grindahl discloses transmitting via an RF signal and not via power distribution lines.

Second, Ouellette and Grindahl fail to teach mapping a unique ID for an endpoint to a base frequency and transmitting the find endpoint data packet onto the power line, the find endpoint data packet including the unique ID and the base frequency. Rather Ouellette teaches

each node and each associated electrical metering device 16 is assigned a predetermined address. See col. 9, lines 1-2. In Ouellette, the predetermined address allows transmitted signals to be assigned a source address of a device from which they were transmitted and a destination address of the device to which they are transmitted. See col. 9, lines 2-6. For example, a mobile node 22 prompts an electrical metering device 16 by transmitting a signal having a destination address 30b corresponding to the predefined address of the electrical metering device or devices 16. See col. 9, lines 6-10. Consequently, Ouellette discloses a system in which predefined addresses are used to direct communication to electrical metering devices. As a result, Ouellette fails to disclose “mapping a unique ID for an endpoint to a base frequency and transmitting the find endpoint data packet onto the power line, the find endpoint data packet including the unique ID and the base frequency.” The find endpoint data packet being used to locate a metering device when the location of the metering device is not known. See Specification, page 43, lines 5-23. Rather, Ouellette discloses transmitting signals to metering devices by sending an RF signal to a predefined address.

Again, Grindahl fails to overcome Ouellette’s deficiency. Just as Ouellette, Grindahl fails to teach mapping a unique ID for an endpoint to a base frequency and transmitting the find endpoint data packet onto the power line, the find endpoint data packet including the unique ID and the base frequency. For example, Grindahl teaches a transponder information packet 42 is divided into a plurality of data fields including (1) preamble field 46A; (2) spare field 46B; (3) instrument type field 46C; (4) instrument parameter field 46D; (5) tamper field 46E; (6) instrument identification field 46F; and (7) error control code field 46G. See col. 5, lines 61-68. Instrument identification field 46F contains data identifying the particular meter 12A with which transponder 14A is associated. See col. 7, lines 2-5. Each transponder 14A-14C of instrument

monitoring system 10 preferably has a unique identification code which is transmitted within its instrument identification field 46F. See col. 7, lines 5-8. Consequently, just as Ouellette, Grindahl discloses a system in which predefined addresses are used to direct communication to electrical metering devices, and it fails to disclose “mapping a unique ID for an endpoint to a base frequency and transmitting the find endpoint data packet onto the power line, the find endpoint data packet including the unique ID and the base frequency.” The find endpoint data packet being used to locate a metering device when the location of the metering device is not known. See Specification, page 43, lines 5-23. Rather, Grindahl discloses transmitting signals to metering devices by sending an RF signal to a predefined address.

Therefore, Ouellette and Grindahl, either individually or in combination, do not teach all of the elements set forth in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Rejection of Claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ouellette in view of Grindahl and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,900,737 (“Ardalan”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and do not concede any characterizations of the cited references set forth in the Action.

As discussed above, Ouellette fails to teach, *inter alia*, the following elements as set forth in the pending claims: transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network or transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto a power distribution network. Ardalan also fails to teach all of these elements. Therefore, no combination of Ouellette or Ardalan will

result in the claimed combination of elements. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ouellette in view of Grindahl and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,502,726 ("Fischer"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and do not concede any characterizations of the cited references set forth in the Action.

As discussed above, Ouellette fails to teach, *inter alia*, the following elements as set forth in the pending claims: transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network or transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto a power distribution network. Fischer also fails to teach all of these elements. Therefore, no combination of Ouellette or Fischer will result in the claimed combination of elements. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ouellette in view of Fischer in view of Grindahl and further in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0105386 ("Sipola"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and do not concede any characterizations of the cited references set forth in the Action.

As discussed above, Ouellette fails to teach, *inter alia*, the following elements as set forth in the pending claims: transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto the power distribution network or transmitting a find endpoint data packet onto a power distribution network. Fischer

and Sipola also fail to teach all of these elements. Therefore, no combination of Ouellette with Fischer or Sipola will result in the claimed combination of elements. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all the pending rejections and allowance of the pending claims. Applicants note that there may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct and reserve the right to raise any such reasons in the future. Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions or if a telephone interview can otherwise advance prosecution of this application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

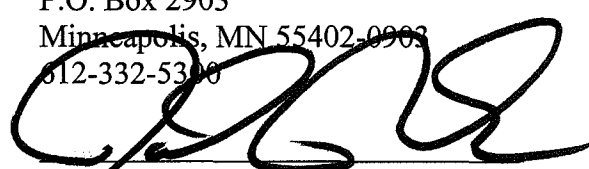
Respectfully submitted,

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